I CLAIM

1. (Amended) A method of data processing on a computer system, comprising:

using an application program to compose an electronic version of a document;

printing the document onto paper, the printed paper being steganographically encoded with plural-bit auxiliary data; and

storing at least some of the plural-bit auxiliary data in association with data identifying a location at which the electronic version of the document is stored.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the printing includes steganographically encoding the printed paper with said plural-bit auxiliary data.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said storing includes storing in a registry database maintained by an operating system of said computer system.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said storing is performed by the application program.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said storing is performed by a computer system operating system.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said storing is performed by a printer driver employed in printing the document onto paper.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the steganographic encoding of the printed paper comprises subtle variations in the luminance of the document, which are substantially imperceptible to casual human inspection, but which are detectable through visible light imaging of the document and processing of image data thereby produced.

SPECIFICATION: CLAIMS

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the steganographic encoding takes the form of tiny elements of ink or toner distributed in a pattern so light as to be essentially un-noticeable.

SPECIFICATION: CLAIMS